

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /063 W

----- 046992

R 090441Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8252

INFO CINCPAC

CINCPAC/POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 13289

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: MRS. MARCOS'S AMNESTY AS QUALIFIED BY DEFENSE SECRETARY

1. MANILA PRESS NOVEMBER 9 HEADLINED MRS. MARCOS' ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOP OFFER OF AMNESTY IN HONOLULU TO FILIPINOS LIVING ABROAD. AMNESTY DESCRIBED IN FOLLOWING TERMS: "AS OF NOVEMBER 7, 1974, THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT IS EXTENDING AMNESTY TO ALL FILIPINO CITIZENS LIVING ABROAD WHO MAY HAVE COMMITTED POLITICAL ACTS PUNISHABLE UNDER PHILIPPINE LAWS... UNDER TERMS OF AMNESTY, SAFE CONDUCT WILL BE GIVEN ANY AND ALL FILIPINOS FALLING UNDER THIS SPECIFIED CATEGORY SO THAT THEY MAY RETURN TO PHILIPPINES AT THEIR OWN LEISURE WITHOUT FEAR OF ARREST, PROSECUTION OR MOLESTATION."

2. ASKED TO COMMENT ON MRS. MARCOS' AMNESTY ANNOUNCEMENT, DEFENSE SECRETARY PONCE ENRILE AT PRESS CONFERENCE NOV 8 SAID AMNESTY IS "NOT AUTOMATIC. THOSE WHO WISH TO AVAIL OF IT WILL HAVE TO FILE A FORMAL APPLICATION... APPLICATION WILL BE PROCESSED BY ORGANIZATION CREATED FOR THIS PURPOSE." WHEN ASKED IF MANGLAPUS WOULD BE QUALIFIED UNDER AMNESTY OFFER, PONCE ENRILE SAID "IF HE WILL APPLY WE WILL CONSIDER HIS APPLICATION AND FIND OUT IF HE HAS COMMITTED ACTS 'INIMICAL TO THE COUNTRY'."

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3. COMMENT: GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN OR ANNOUNCED A NUMBER OF MEASURES RECENTLY WHICH INTENDED TO GIVE APPEARANCE OF SLIGHT LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW SUCH AS TRANSFERRING SOME KINDS OF OFFENSES FROM MILITARY TO CIVILIAN COURTS, PUNISHING ERRANT LOCAL OFFICIALS AND PROMISING NEW REFERENDUM FOR THE PEOPLE, AND AMNESTY DECREE IS VERY MUCH OF THIS PATTERN. ALTHOUGH PURPOSE UNDOUBTEDLY INTENDED IN PART OF DOMESTIC AUDIENCE, PRIMARY TARGET WOULD APPEAR TO BE INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE OF BANKERS SUCH AS DAVID ROCKEFELLER AND UPCOMING MEETING OF CONSULTATIVE GROUP, FOREIGN PRESS CRITICS, AND SUCH GENERAL AUDIENCES AS UNITED STATES WHICH STILL SHELTERS PRINCIPAL FILIPINO CRITICS OF NEW SOCIETY. ENRILE'S SOMEWHAT UNGUARDED COMMENTS INDICATE AMNESTY DECREE IS LESS THAN A SWEEPING RESTORATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMNESTY, PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL CONCESSIONS, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANILA13289
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740323-0105
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741156/aaaabvbsb.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MRS. MARCOS'S AMNESTY AS QUALIFIED BY DEFENSE SECRETARY
TAGS: PINT, RP, (MARCOS, IMELDA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005